

# Statistics Weekly

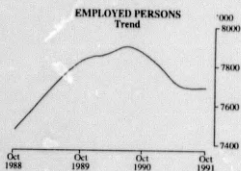
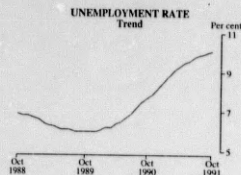
Thursday, 14 November 1991

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statistics

## Unemployment rate stays above 10 per cent



Australia's unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in October 1991, was estimated at 10.1 per cent. The September 1991 result, 10.2 per cent, exceeded ten per cent for the first time since October 1983. Seasonally adjusted labour force estimates for October 1991 showed falls in employment and unemployment, and consequently a fall in the participation rate. The fall in employment was mainly due to a significant decrease in the number of women in part-time work. There was also a significant fall in the number of females unemployed.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons fell to 7,686,400 in October 1991. Full-time employment increased by 22,500 to 5,998,900. In contrast, part-time employment fell by 41,400 to 1,687,400. For males, seasonally adjusted employment fell marginally to 4,469,700, with an increase of 10,000 in full-time employment offset by a fall of 12,700 in part-time employment. For females, employment fell by 16,200 to 3,216,700, with the fall of 28,700 in part-time employment outweighing the rise of 12,500 in full-time employment.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons was 859,900, a fall of 12,200 since September 1991. Male unemployment rose slightly to 525,800 with an increase of 6,800 in the number of males seeking full-time work. In contrast, female unemployment fell by 15,800 to 334,100 with falls of 6,000 and 9,800 respectively in the number of females looking for full-time and part-time work.

The unemployment rate for males was steady at 10.5 per cent. For females, the rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 9.4 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate has been increasing by 0.1 percentage point each month since July, a slower rate of increase than for the first six months of 1991.

The labour force participation rate (seasonally adjusted) fell to 63.0 per cent. The male participation rate was unchanged at 74.7 per cent, while for females the rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 51.7 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES  
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers — '000 —	Total		
1991 —					
June	5,985.6	1,720.2	7,705.7	9.3	63.0
July	5,919.5	1,703.0	7,622.6	9.8	62.6
August	6,006.1	1,722.5	7,728.6	9.8	63.4
September	5,976.4	1,728.8	7,705.2	10.2	63.4
October	5,998.9	1,687.4	7,686.4	10.1	63.0

## Retail growth eases slightly

Growth in the trend estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments eased slightly following the addition of data for September 1991. The monthly increase averaged 0.6 per cent over the three months to September — still stronger than that experienced earlier in the year. The annual growth rate (September 1991 over September 1990) has risen to 4.0 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in August.

Department stores and 'other' food stores are showing strong growth. In the grocery industry the growth rate has weakened slightly. Pharmacies and newsagents are showing a weaker growth rate following a period of strong growth. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs are showing a large decline with an average monthly decrease over the three months ended September 1991 of 0.7 per cent.



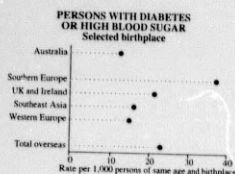
RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Percentage change in trend estimates		
	Original value in September 1991 \$ million	Average monthly increase for 3 months to September 1991	September 1991 over September 1990
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,098	0.7	7.9
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	912	-0.7	-4.6
Department and general stores	734	1.0	3.0
Clothing and fabrics stores	508	-0.1	3.4
Other food stores	508	0.9	5.9
Electrical stores	387	0.7	-2.2
Pharmacies	320	0.8	16.3
Newsagents	256	0.3	2.7
Other industries	1,503	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,226	0.6	4.0

The value of turnover for retail and selected services industries in constant price seasonally adjusted terms rose by 2.9 per cent from June quarter 1991, the first rise since September 1990. In the past year (September quarter 1991 over September quarter 1990) retail and selected services industries turnover increased by just 0.2 per cent in real terms.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER  
At average 1984-85 prices, seasonally adjusted

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From preceding quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
1991 —			
March	15,211	0.0	-1.3
June	15,048	-1.1	2.2
September	15,487	2.9	0.2



## Diabetes on rise in Australia

The proportion of people reporting diabetes as a long-term illness condition rose from 0.4 per cent to 1.1 per cent between 1977-78 and 1989-90.

The 1989-90 National Health Survey found that approximately 257,000 persons had diabetes or high blood sugar levels, compared with an estimate of 56,800 in a 1977-78 survey.

Diabetes is a disorder of the metabolic system. It is characterised by high sugar levels in blood and urine resulting from inadequate production or utilisation of insulin. Effects can include blindness, kidney failure, heart attack and stroke. Twice as many people with diabetes/high blood sugar reported hypertension than non-sufferers of the condition.

Results indicate that the chance of having diabetes or high blood sugar increases with age, with 45 per cent of all persons with the condition being aged 65 or more.

**PERSONS WITH DIABETES/HIGH BLOOD SUGAR**  
Rate per thousand people, 1989-90

	Age group (years)				Total
	Less than 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Males	1.6	6.3	33.4	64.7	15.3
Females	2.1	7.3	24.8	57.3	15.0
Persons	1.8	6.8	29.2	60.4	15.2

The survey also found that a greater proportion of people with diabetes/high blood sugar were overweight or obese than in the total population of the same age.

Over half (55.1%) of persons with diabetes/high blood sugar took medication for the condition in the two weeks prior to interview. Of these people, 28.1 per cent used insulin.

Statistics are available from the National Health Survey on other aspects of health status including, for example, asthma, cardiovascular conditions and musculoskeletal conditions.

For further information, order the publication 1989-90 National Health Survey, Diabetes, Australia (4371.0), or contact Brian Richings on (06) 252 5786.

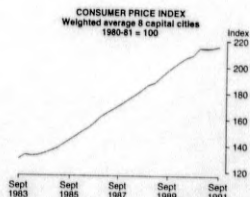
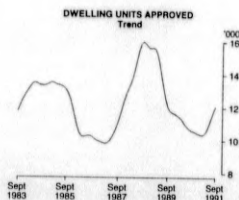
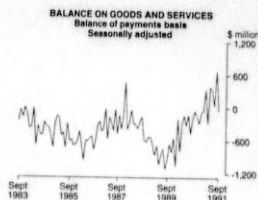
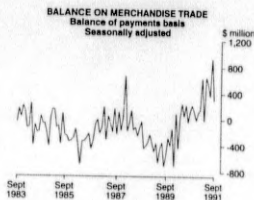
## Mineral exploration

The June quarter 1991 saw an increase in exploration expenditure of 29.0 per cent over the March quarter 1991. This compared favourably with a 25.2 per cent increase in the same period of 1990. Exploration expenditure for 1990-91 totalled \$602.2 million, which was only marginally less than the 1989-90 total of \$607.5 million. Gold continues to be the mainstay of the exploration industry, accounting for 49.8 per cent of total expenditure. However, base metals are playing a greater part with their share increasing from 19.4 per cent in 1989-90 to 28.5 per cent in 1990-91.

Source: *Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia, June Quarter 1991* (8412.0).

## Australian perspectives

*Australian perspectives* is an occasional series of selected graphs. The series displayed illustrate the latest published data as at September 1991.



## Personal finance

Personal finance commitments for August 1991 totalled \$1,637.5 million, \$251.8 million (13.3%) less than in July 1991 and \$313.4 million (16.1%) less than in August 1990. It should be noted, however, that both July 1991 and August 1990 were five week reporting periods for some banks whereas August 1991 was a four week reporting period. Of the two components which make up personal finance commitments, fixed loan commitments recorded by far the largest decrease, down \$245.4 million (19.4%); new commitments under revolving credit facilities were down \$6.4 million (1.0%).

Source: *Personal Finance, Australia, August 1991* (5642.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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**Statistics Weekly**  
14 November 1991

## All the week's releases: 6 to 12 November

### General

Publications Advice, 8 November 1991 (1105.0; free)  
Publications Advice, 12 November 1991 (1105.0; free)  
Statistics Weekly, 7 November 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)

### Social statistics

National Health Survey: Asthma and Other Respiratory Conditions, Aust., 1989-90 (4373.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Musculoskeletal Conditions, Aust., 1989-90 (4374.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*  
Health and Welfare Establishments, Qld, 1989-90 (4302.3; \$13.50)  
Sport and Recreation, Urban NT, 1991, Preliminary (4104.7; \$5.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Exports, 1990-91 (5424.0; \$18.00)  
(Previously: Exports, Aust.: Annual Summary Tables)  
Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, September 1991 (5433.0; \$9.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)  
Labour Force Projections, Aust., 1992 to 2005 (6260.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*  
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Aust., April 1991 (6267.0; \$11.50)  
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)  
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., October 1991 (6410.0; \$5.00)  
Part-Time Workers, Tas., October 1990 (6247.6; \$5.00) — *new issue*

### Agriculture

Australian Farming in Brief, 1991 (7106.0; \$1.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Retail Trade, Aust., September 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)  
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, September 1991 (8504.0; \$10.00)  
Production Statistics, NSW, July 1991 (8304.1; \$7.50)  
Building Approvals, Qld, September 1991 (8731.3; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, Tas., September 1991 (8731.6; \$9.50)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., August 1991 (8741.6; \$3.50)

### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., September 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)



## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 November 1991

### November

- 20** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1992, September Quarter 1991 Survey, Preliminary (\$625.0; \$10.00)
- 21** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, September Quarter 1991, Preliminary (\$601.0; \$10.00)
- 22** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1991 (\$609.0; \$10.00)  
Export Price Index, Australia, September 1991 (\$605.0; \$7.50)
- 26** Manufacturing Production, Australia, October 1991, Preliminary (\$801.0; \$10.00)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1991, Preliminary (\$9301.0; \$10.00)

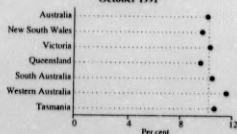
## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
12 November 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (Sept. 91) (trend estimate)	4.4	2.2	3.5	5.0	5.8	3.9	n.a.	10.1	4.0
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 91)† (a)	-21.5	-32.5	-14.4	-27.5	-8.2	-11.6	-28.5	28.8	-21.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 91)	15.0	12.7	28.5	-3.5	21.2	29.6	7.1	16.6	17.2
Value of total building work done (June qtr 91)	-8.3	-28.6	4.7	-11.4	-27.9	-0.5	39.9	18.1	-13.2
Employed persons (Oct. 91)*	-2.0	-3.9	-0.5	-3.9	-1.9	-2.0	1.9	0.3	-2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 91)	3.6	5.2	5.7	6.5	8.1	3.1	5.8	5.6	5.0
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 91)	-1.9	-1.4	7.8	-4.5	-2.2	2.6	-4.6	-7.8	0.1

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.  
(a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
Seasonally adjusted  
October 1991



## Key national indicators – consolidated to 12 November 1991

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 91	92,362	93,956	-1.2	-1.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	62,148	63,912	-1.0	-2.4
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 91	6,304	6,011	-8.9	-13.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,808	4,577	-8.2	-13.4
Expected new capital expenditure	— current prices	"	Six months to Dec. 91	12,756	n.a.	n.a.	-18.5
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Sept. 91	7,225.8	7,642.4	-1.8	2.6
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations (e) (f)		no.	Sept. 91	40,408	40,010	-5.3	-21.2
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Sept. 91	12,136	12,198	2.7	15.6
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,624	1,616	-4.9	-15.7
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 91	6,253	6,264	-5.1	-13.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,963	3,970	-4.7	-13.3
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	June qtr 91	33,638	33,765	-1.7	-3.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	23,225	23,337	-1.8	-5.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 91	71,691	n.a.	n.a.	-5.0
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	Oct. 91	7,687.8	7,686.4	-0.2	-2.4
Unemployment rate †		%	"	9.4	10.1	-0.1	2.4
Participation rate †		"	"	62.6	63.0	-0.3	-0.9
Job vacancies		'000	Aug. 91	25.6	25.1	-2.1	-46.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.07	1.11	-1.0	-12.2
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Aug. 91	119.9	n.a.	-0.4	-2.0
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Aug. 91	111.2	n.a.	-0.2	1.5
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 91	2,469	2,697	7.4	-23.1
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 91	560.80	n.a.	-0.6	5.0
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	Sept. 91	9.55	n.a.	-0.65	-4.00
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	"	10.30	n.a.	-0.35	-3.35
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Sept. 91	4,584	4,637	0.2	9.9
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,169	4,337	16.9	6.1
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	415	300	-67.9	227.3
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-75	-46	n.a.	76.8
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,336	-1,332	-121.3	2.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 91	n.a.	100.2	1.2	-5.2
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 June 91	131,340	n.a.	-1.7	3.7
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	177,295	n.a.	2.3	7.0
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
SUS		per \$A	Sept. 91	0.7927	n.a.	1.3	-3.9
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.5	n.a.	0.2	-1.8
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)		million	Mar. 91	17.3	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals		'000	July 91	208	215	4.2	12.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) September 1991 is not strictly comparable with September 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 13 November 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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